COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

DATE OF INCIDENT	FILE NO.
10-03-93	I.A.B. #006183

PERSONNEL INVOLVED

Hager, Darren K., Deputy, #[redacted]
Polk, Ronald Jr., Deputy, (Res.), #[redacted]
Antelope Valley Station
Field Operations Region I

REQUESTOR

James M. Callas, Chief
Field Operations Region I

CHARACTER OF CASE

Deputy Involved Shooting, on duty, Non-Hit

LOCATION

[redacted] West Avenue J., Lancaster

REFERENCE	INVESTIGATOR
James M. Callas, Chief **Field Operations Region I**	**Sergeant Raymond L. Marlett** **Internal Affairs Bureau**

SYNOPSIS

During a robbery attempt at the K-Mart store in Lancaster, two robbery suspects took the [redacted] hostage. After filling a shopping cart with money, the suspects had the store [redacted] accompany them to the rear door where they exited with the [redacted] When the suspects and the [redacted] exited, they were confronted by two deputies. The suspects pointed their weapons in the direction of the deputies and at the [redacted] Fearing for the safety of the [redacted] and their own safety, the deputies fired three shotgun rounds and five Beretta rounds at the suspects, missing them. The suspects retreated into the store where they were later apprehended. The store [redacted] ran to the deputies.

SUBMITTED BY	REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION TO
Bert J. Cueva, Captain **Internal Affairs Bureau**	**Gerald W. Minnis, Commander** **Professional Standards** **And Training Division**

STATUS OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED

Continuing On Duty

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

CLASSIFICATION

ACCIDENTAL:	No
GUN TAKE-AWAY:	No
PERSON(S) ARMED:	Yes
PERSON(S) UNARMED:	No
STARTLE:	No
UNINTENTIONAL:	No
DEPUTY IN UNIFORM:	[X] RAID JACKET: [ ] PLAIN CLOTHES: [ ]
VEST WORN:	Yes
FOOT PURSUIT:	No
VEHICLE PURSUIT:	No
MOVING VEHICLE:	No
VEHICLE STOP:	No
TYPE OF HOLSTER:	Department Issue
GUN IN HOLSTER:	Yes
STRUGGLE INVOLVED:	No

ADDITIONAL FACTS AND INFORMATION:
See Narrative

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

DEPUTY INVOLVED

SHOOTER

EMPLOYEE'S NAME		
HAGER, Darren K.		

RANK	EMPLOYEE NO.	UNIT AND DIVISION / REGION OF ASSIGNMENT
Deputy Generalist	[redacted]	Antelope Valley Station / F.O.R. I

SEX	RACE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE
M	White	6'00"	150	[redacted]	[redacted]

DUTY STATUS	HIRE DATE
Continuing On Duty	02/17/88

UNIFORM	RAID JACKET	PLAIN CLOTHES	VEST
Yes	No	No	Yes

INJURED	DECEASED	CORONER'S CASE NO.
No	No	N/A

DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES
None

WAS THE DEPUTY IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE SCENE? YES [ ] NO [x]

WAS THE DEPUTY SEQUESTERED PRIOR TO THE INTERVIEW? YES [ ] NO [x]

WHERE? N/A

SUPERVISED BY: N/A

WEAPON USED

TYPE	AUTHORIZED
Ithica Model 37, 12 gauge pump shotgun	Yes, Department issued.

AMMUNITION TYPE	AUTHORIZED
Number four shot high base	Yes, Department issued.

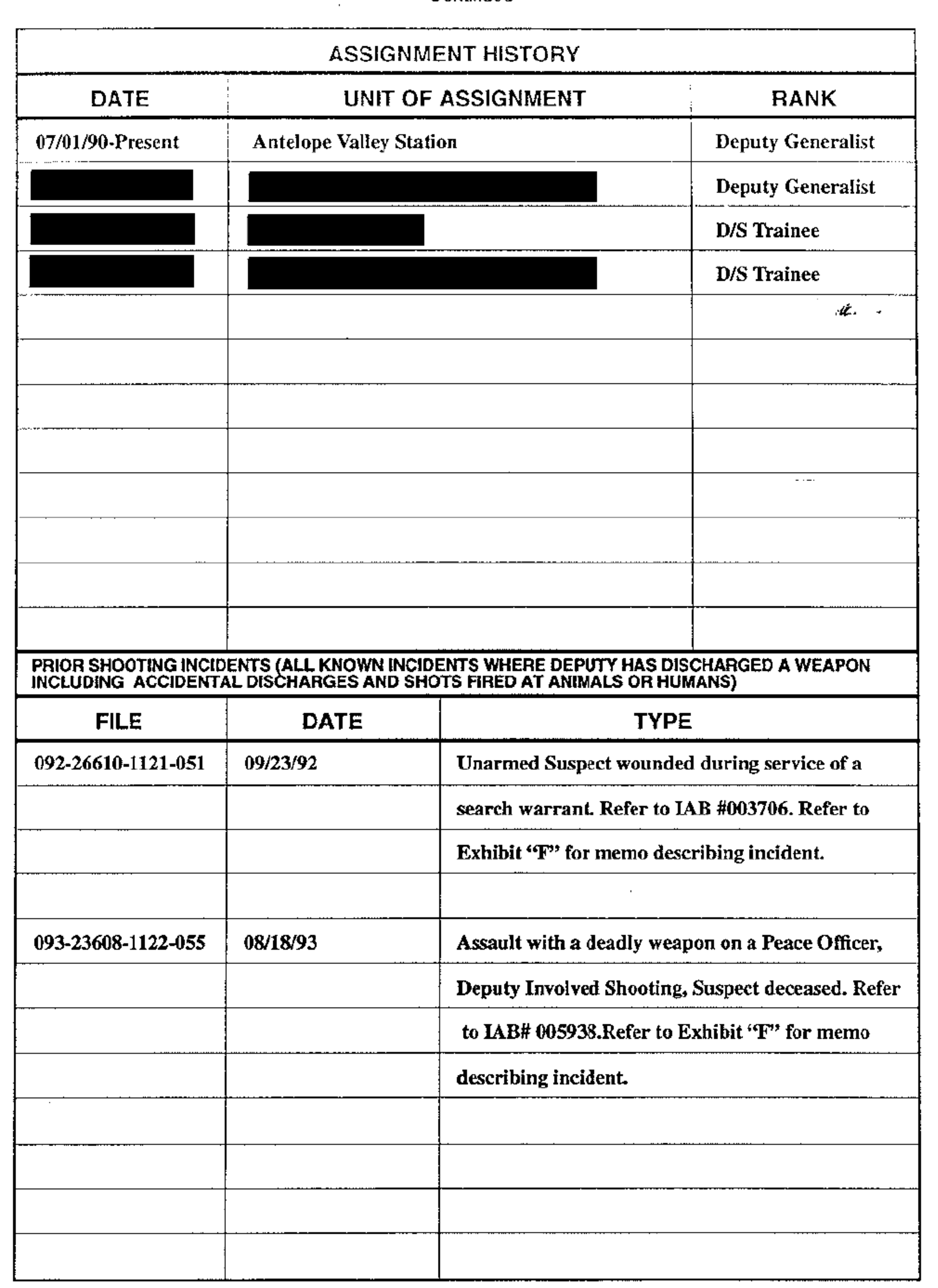
RANGE QUALIFICATION (LAST DATE)	NO. OF ROUNDS FIRED BY DEPUTY	NO. OF HITS
[redacted]	3	0

DEPUTY'S TOXICOLOGY

UNDER THE INFLUENCE	TEST FOR CAUSE ORDERED	ORDERED BY
No	No	N/A

TRAINING INFORMATION

LASER VILLAGE TRAINING (LAST DATE)	PRACTICAL POLICE COURSE (LAST DATE)
[redacted]	[redacted]



ASSIGNMENT HISTORY		
DATE	UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT	RANK
07/01/90-Present	Antelope Valley Station	Deputy Generalist
[redacted]	[redacted]	Deputy Generalist
[redacted]	[redacted]	D/S Trainee
[redacted]	[redacted]	D/S Trainee

PRIOR SHOOTING INCIDENTS (ALL KNOWN INCIDENTS WHERE DEPUTY HAS DISCHARGED A WEAPON INCLUDING ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGES AND SHOTS FIRED AT ANIMALS OR HUMANS)		
FILE	DATE	TYPE
092-26610-1121-051	09/23/92	Unarmed Suspect wounded during service of a
		search warrant. Refer to IAB #003706. Refer to
		Exhibit "F" for memo describing incident.
093-23608-1122-055	08/18/93	Assault with a deadly weapon on a Peace Officer,
		Deputy Involved Shooting, Suspect deceased. Refer
		to IAB# 005938.Refer to Exhibit "F" for memo
		describing incident.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

DEPUTY INVOLVED

SHOOTER

EMPLOYEE'S NAME
Polk, Ronald Jr.

RANK	EMPLOYEE NO.	UNIT AND DIVISION / REGION OF ASSIGNMENT
Dep. Sheriff, (Reserve)	[redacted]	Antelope Valley Station FOR I

SEX	RACE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE
M	White	5' 7"	165 Lbs.	[redacted]	[redacted]

DUTY STATUS	HIRE DATE
Continuing on Duty	02-09-92

UNIFORM	RAID JACKET	PLAIN CLOTHES	VEST
Yes	No	No	Yes

INJURED	DECEASED	CORONER'S CASE NO.
No	No	None

DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES
None

WAS THE DEPUTY IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE SCENE? YES [ ] NO [X]

WAS THE DEPUTY SEQUESTERED PRIOR TO THE INTERVIEW? YES [ ] NO [X]

WHERE? N/A

SUPERVISED BY: N/A

WEAPON USED

TYPE	AUTHORIZED
Beretta, Model 92F 9mm	Yes - Department Issue

AMMUNITION TYPE	AUTHORIZED
9mm Winchester	Yes - Department Issued

RANGE QUALIFICATION (LAST DATE)	NO. OF ROUNDS FIRED BY DEPUTY	NO. OF HITS
[redacted]	five (5)	None

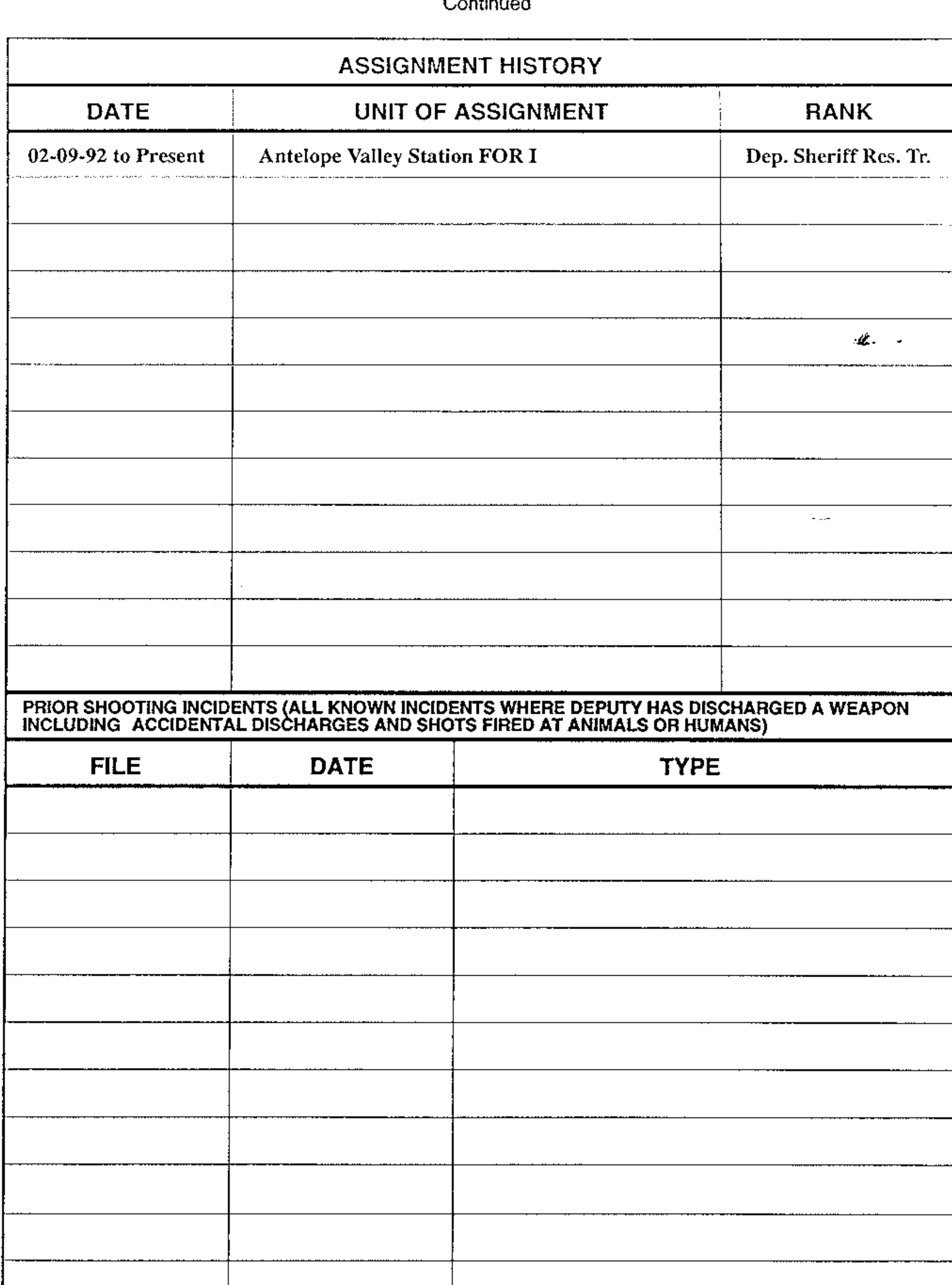
DEPUTY'S TOXICOLOGY

UNDER THE INFLUENCE	TEST FOR CAUSE ORDERED	ORDERED BY
No	No	No

TRAINING INFORMATION

LASER VILLAGE TRAINING (LAST DATE)	PRACTICAL POLICE COURSE (LAST DATE)
[redacted]	[redacted]

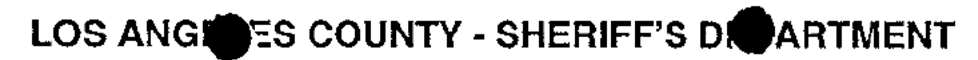
DEPUTY INVOLVED
Continued



ASSIGNMENT HISTORY		
DATE	**UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT**	**RANK**
02-09-92 to Present	Antelope Valley Station FOR I	Dep. Sheriff Res. Tr.

PRIOR SHOOTING INCIDENTS (ALL KNOWN INCIDENTS WHERE DEPUTY HAS DISCHARGED A WEAPON INCLUDING ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGES AND SHOTS FIRED AT ANIMALS OR HUMANS)

FILE	DATE	TYPE



LOS ANGELES COUNTY - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SUSPECT/SUBJECT

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M/I
Carter	Darren	NMI

ADDRESS
[redacted]

SEX:	RACE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	D.O.B.	AGE	DECEASED
M	Black	5' 8"	200	09-06-61	32	No

INJURED	DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES
No	None

SUSPECT'S TOXICOLOGY

UNDER THE INFLUENCE
No

TYPE OF SUBSTANCE	LAB TEST CONDUCTED
None	None

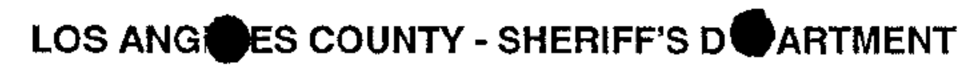
ARMED	TYPE OF WEAPON
Yes	9mm "LLama" semi-automatic

NUMBER OF SHOTS FIRED BY SUSPECT	NUMBER OF HITS
None	None

SUSPECT VEHICLE
None

CRIMINAL HISTORY (ATTACH COPY OF RAPS)
Exhibit

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT
See Attached



SUSPECT/SUBJECT

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M/I
Corothers	Leighton	NMI

ADDRESS
[redacted]

SEX:	RACE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	D.O.B.	AGE	DECEASED
Male	Black	5' 11"	160	03-04-75	18	No

INJURED	DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES
Yes	Canine rake wounds to left rib area and lower left leg. Minor scratches on chest.

SUSPECT'S TOXICOLOGY

UNDER THE INFLUENCE
No

TYPE OF SUBSTANCE	LAB TEST CONDUCTED
None	None

ARMED	TYPE OF WEAPON
Yes	Hand gun, possible semi-automatic

NUMBER OF SHOTS FIRED BY SUSPECT	NUMBER OF HITS
None	None

SUSPECT VEHICLE
None

CRIMINAL HISTORY (ATTACH COPY OF RAPS)
Exhibit

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT
Attached

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

On October 3, 1993, at approximately 2110 hours, two robbery suspects entered the Lancaster K-Mart store, wearing ski masks (Exhibit A 1), and both carrying semi-automatic hand guns. Because the K-Mart in Palmdale had been robbed two sundays prior, the Lancaster store had placed an employee at the closed circuit television monitors to watch for possible suspects entering the store.

After the suspects entered the store, the employee, who was stationed at the monitor, telephoned the Antelope Valley Sheriff's Station and advised of a robbery in progress. Sheriff's Units were dispatched and a description of the suspects was given to the responding units.

Witness [redacted], the [redacted] stated that the store employees were preparing to close the store. He said it is procedure to have an employee go to each cash register and collect the money. The money is then taken to him at the office located in the rear of the store. Witness [redacted] then puts the money into the safe.

Witness [redacted] said while walking to the office, he was approached by a male suspect who was wearing a ski mask and carrying a hand gun. The suspect ordered [redacted] into the office and told him to empty the contents of the two safe's. While [redacted] was removing the money from the safes, the suspect kicked and struck him.

While the one suspect was in the office with Witness [redacted] the other suspect remained in the hallway outside of the office, (Exhibit A 2). As other employees entered the hallway, the second suspect ordered them into the employee lounge, off of the hallway, (Exhibit A 3). When the robbery began, there were already two employees inside the smoking room.

After obtaining the money, the suspect ordered [redacted] to carry the money and exit the office. As they exited the office, the employee with the cash register money came into the hallway pushing the shopping cart with the money. This employee was ordered into the smoking room, (Exhibit A3.

The suspects ordered Witness [redacted] to push the shopping cart with the money, and go to the nearest exit at the rear of the store. When [redacted] neared the east exit, one of the suspects ordered him to stop. [redacted] stopped between the two sets of double doors, (Exhibit A 4), with the two suspects still behind him. One of the suspects ordered [redacted] to exit the door. [redacted] said as he approached the double doors, he increased his speed and pushed the doors open with the shopping cart, then quickly exited the store.

Within minutes after the robbery call was dispatched, several Sheriff's Units arrived at the scene. While the units were in the process of deploying, the back double doors, located in the center of the east side of the building, burst open. Witness [redacted] followed by the two suspects, then exited the store.

> I.A.B. NOTE: Regarding this investigation, no deputies were interviewed by Internal Affairs Investigators. All statements contained in this report made by deputy personnel were taken from supplemental reports prepared by them.

Deputy Hager stated that he and his partner, Deputy Polk, arrived at the location, and took up a

position of containment at the southeast corner of the store, (Exhibit A 5). From the cover of the open doors of their radio car, the deputies shined their spotlights on the east side of the building so they could clearly see the doors.

Hager said at this time he heard an exterior door slam open and he saw a white male run out the door. Hager said the white male was followed out the door by a male in dark clothing, who was wearing a ski mask and holding a handgun. The male wearing the ski mask was attempting to grab the shoulder of the white male and had the gun pointed directly at the white male. At this time they were approximately eight feet east of the open door where they had exited.

Another male in dark clothing, also wearing a ski mask and pointing a handgun at the white male, exited the store. Hager said he believed that this suspect was pushing a shopping cart. Hager shouted at the three males, "Sheriff's Department, don't move." The suspect who was attempting to grab the white male, began to turn towards the deputies.

Hager yelled at the white male to "drop to the ground," in an attempt to get him out of the line of fire, should it become necessary for the deputies to shoot at the suspects. Hager stated that the white male laid on the ground, and the first suspect crouched down on his knees, and assumed a shooting position, pointing his weapon at the two deputies.

Fearing for the safety of the white male, his partner, and himself, Deputy Hager fired three shotgun rounds at the suspects. Hager said he intentionally fired high, (Exhibit A 6), to insure that he did not hit the victim who was lying on the ground.

Deputy Polk, who had moved east of the radio car, saw the suspect assume a firing position. Because of the same fears expressed by Deputy Hager, Deputy Polk stated that from a kneeling position, he fired three rounds at the suspect. Polk stated he then moved behind the radio car door where he saw the suspect raise up. Fearing that he was going to shoot, Polk fired another round at the suspect.

> I.A.B. NOTE: The distance from where the deputies fired from, to the rear door where the suspects exited was 252 feet. Strike marks where the shotgun pellets struck the wall were approximately 40 feet south of the door, and continued striking the wall in a northerly direction, past the door where the suspects exited. The lowest point where the pellets struck the wall above where the suspects and [redacted] were was approximately 10 feet above the ground, (Exhibit A 6). One 9mm round struck a dumpster near the rear door where the suspects exited, and another 9mm round struck the rear door, (Exhibit A 7). Both 9mm rounds struck approximately two feet above the ground. The remaining 9mm rounds that were fired could not be located.

After the deputies fired at the suspect, Deputy Hager stated both suspects reentered the store and closed the door. Hager stated that Witness [redacted] then got to his feet ran toward the deputies position. The shopping cart containing the money rolled to the east and stopped against the block wall, (Exhibit 8).

> I.A.B. NOTE: One live shotgun round had apparently been ejected by Deputy Hager. This round was found on the passenger seat of the radio car. The position of the shotgun and 9mm casings were photographed, (Exhibit A 9). The deputies radio car had been moved prior to the commencement of this investigation.

After the suspects reentered the store, one of the suspects, Suspect Carter, removed his ski mask, and hid it and his semi-automatic hand gun in a shopping cart that was located inside the south storage/air compressor room, adjacent to the rear door they had exited, (Exhibit A 4). Suspect Carter then went to the employee lounge and contacted the employees who were inside. Carter attempted to pose as a shoplifter, (Exhibit 10), and exited the store with the employees. Deputies later determined that he was one of the robbery suspects, and booked him for robbery.

The store employees, along with Suspect Carter, exited the store without incident, and then a six hour search of the store was conducted for Suspect Corothers.

Suspect Corothers, the suspect who took Witness [redacted] into the office, and the suspect who tried grabbing [redacted] outside of the store, fled into the interior of the store and hid. After an extensive search by Special Enforcement Bureau Deputies, and two Canines, Suspect Corothers was found hiding behind shelving on the second floor in a storage area, (Exhibit A 11). Suspect Corothers was located by a Canine, and received minor bite "rake" wounds to the left rib cage and lower left leg, (Exhibit 12).

I.A.B. NOTE: Both suspects have extensive arrest records, (Exhibit B).

Suspect Corothers was interviewed by Sergeant William Thompson, SEB Canine Supervisor, (Exhibit C), following his arrest. Suspect Corothers told Thompson that after the dog found him, he was struck by deputies on the jaw, upper body, and kicked on the buttocks. Sergeant Thompson inspected Corothers for any injuries that could have been caused by the force that he described. Sergeant Thompson could find no injuries to Corothers, other than the "rake" abrasions caused by the canine, (Exhibit 12). While Thompson was inspecting Corothers, Corothers stated "nothing is going to show because they didn't hit me that hard."

Sergeants Bill Marsh, and Phil Hansen of SEB were present during the Arrest of Suspect Corothers and they stated that Corothers was not struck by any deputies during his arrest.

LOS ANG[redacted]ES COUNTY - SHERIFF'S D[redacted]ARTMENT

WITNESS LIST

SWORN AND DEPT EMPLOYEES TO INCLUDE NAME, RANK, EMPLOYEE NUMBER, UNIT, AND DIVISION/REGION OF ASSIGNMENT - ALL OTHER WITNESSES TO INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS (BUSINESS AND HOME) AND TELEPHONE #

WITNESS # 1 of 1

[redacted]

Business Address [redacted]

was interviewed on 10-04-93 at 1000 hours by Sergeant Marlett of the Internal Affairs Bureau. The interview was tape recorded.

WITNESS # ____

was interviewed on ________________ at ________ hours by ______________________ of the Internal Affairs Bureau. The interview was (was not) tape recorded. The person interviewed was given a copy of his/her Administrative Rights: Yes [__] No [__]

WITNESS # ____

was interviewed on ________________ at ________ hours by ______________________ of the Internal Affairs Bureau. The interview was (was not) tape recorded. The person interviewed was given a copy of his/her Administrative Rights: Yes [__] No [__]

WITNESS # ____

was interviewed on ________________ at ________ hours by ______________________ of the Internal Affairs Bureau. The interview was (was not) tape recorded. The person interviewed was given a copy of his/herAdministrativeRights: Yes [__] No [__]

NOTE: THIS LIST ONLY CONTAINS THOSE WITNESSES PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED BY I.A.B. INVESTIGATORS. SEE ATTACHED REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL WITNESSES.